



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION
3300 Newport Boulevard, Building C, Newport Beach, CA 92663
(949) 644-3200 Fax: (949) 644-3229
www.newportbeachca.gov

November 14, 2012

California Coastal Commission
South Coast Area Office
Attn: Jeffrey Rabin
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Coastal Development Permit Application No. 5-12-134 – Removal
of beach fire rings

Dear Mr. Rabin:

For your file and reference I am forwarding correspondence you may or may not have already received that was provided to the City during the City Council hearing process.

On behalf of Brenda Wisneski, Deputy Community Development Director,

By:



Benjamin M. Zdeba
Assistant Planner

From: William Singleton [mailto:billnmimi@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 5:01 PM
To: dalcara@newportbeachca.gov; tcraig@newportbeachca.gov
Cc: Gardnernc@aol.com
Subject: FW: Possible Liability & Other Questions

Teri,
Would you please forward this information to the members of the Parks, Beach & Recreation Committee and any one else who is studying the Fire Rings at CDM Big Corona Beach?
Thanks.
Bill Singleton

Fyi..communications earlier this year with Nancy Gardner and the previous City Attorney re: Fire Rings at CDM Big Corona Beach.
See also two Attachments.

-----Original Message-----

From: William Singleton [mailto:billnmimi@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 12:38 PM
To: dalcara@City.Newport-Beach.ca.us
Cc: Gardnernc@aol.com
Subject: FW: Possible Liability & Other Questions

I am sending this over to the City Attorney's office since I am concerned about some legal questions and I have had no reply from Nancy Gardner.

I am also attaching a word document which contains the posting on the coronadelmartoday.com web site that I referenced in the original email.

In looking at the pictures again, other liability/enforcement questions arise, in addition to the ones in my original email. There is a photo of a woman dangling a child over the fire. Would this be considered child endangerment? Could the city be held liable for child endangerment as well as adult burns and accidents mentioned in my original email?

Thanks.
Bill Singleton
949 697-5380

-----Original Message-----

From: William Singleton [mailto:billnmimi@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:08 PM
To: Gardnernc@aol.com
Subject: Possible Liability & Other Questions

Nancy,

Last night was the Persian New Year and the traffic seems to be getting worse each year when this event occurs. I had to park in the alley behind my house in the 300 block of Larkspur (I never have to do this at other times of the year).

The following are some comments from the coronadelmartoday.com web site, where you can read the entire write up and look at the pictures of people on the fire rings and jumping over them.

=====

About 5,000 people filled Big Corona State Beach this evening to celebrate Persian New Year, filling the 27 beach fire rings with bonfires as part of an ancient tradition.

..... "It's a party," she said. "We all jump over the fire." When you jump over the fire, she said, you are supposed to speak words that give any sickness to the flames. Her father, Ahmad Sarrafi, 85, said the fire cleanses everyone. He said the tradition honored an old Persian king who saw a snake and threw a stone at it.Newport Beach added 15 extra patrol officers as well as park police to monitor the crowds, but they said other than some First Aid calls and crowd control at the end of the night, the celebrations were usually calm and without incident.

=====

If someone falls in the fire and is injured, could the city be held liable? If the city is not liable, how is it protected?

My concern is this: about 20-25 years ago we lived on Balboa Island and the city was sued when someone dove from a pier into the water (somewhere in Newport Beach, not necessarily Balboa Island) and broke their neck. Even though there were "No Diving" signs there, the diver claimed he had done it a year earlier and had not hit a sand bar. They claimed that "No Diving, Sand Bars Can be Present" (or something to that effect) should have been on the signs. The city lost the case and consequently the city told us we could no longer hold our "Block Parties" due to liability. The City Attorney should have information on that case.

Other questions:

I assume gathering of this size require a permit. Is that correct?

Who pays for the beach cleanup, extra police, helicopter (I called the Newport Beach Police and asked what the helicopter was up to last night shortly after 10pm and was told they were trying to close the beach), etc?

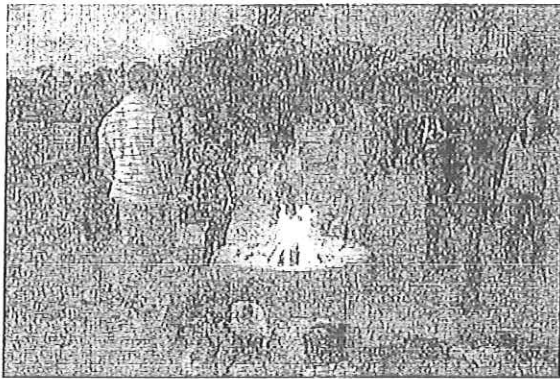
Thanks.

Bill Singleton

Attachment from coronadelmartoday.com submitted by William Singleton

Fire Rings Should Be Studied Again, Council Decides

posted: September 14th, 2011 01:23 pm | [11Comments](#)



Newport Beach officials will study the safety of beach fire rings and whether they should be banned, nearly two years after the issue was tabled because of a storm of public outcry.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Gardner asked that the city's Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission put fire rings on a future agenda. She cited a recent \$500,000 claim against the city of Huntington Beach after a child was severely burned when he fell into a ring; read more about the claim [here](#).

"Before I get all kinds of angry emails," Gardner said, "I'm making no recommendation. There's a spectrum from doing what we do now to no fire pits."

The Council agreed to ask the parks commission to study fire rings at a future meeting.

Two years ago, the City Council discussed whether to ban fire rings because of concerns of pollution; read our story [here](#).

Almost immediately, fans of fire rings began to email Council members. A [Facebook page](#) called "Save the Big Corona Fire Pits!" was formed and currently has 1,801 fans.

By November 2009, Gardner asked that staff no longer make the fire ring ban a priority, saying that the passion on both sides was taking too much time when the city had budget concerns to address; read our story [here](#).

As of October 2009, there were 30 rings at Big Corona and 36 rings at the Balboa Pier. City officials did not immediately confirm whether that number has changed.

The Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission's next meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Oct. 4. The agenda is not yet posted.

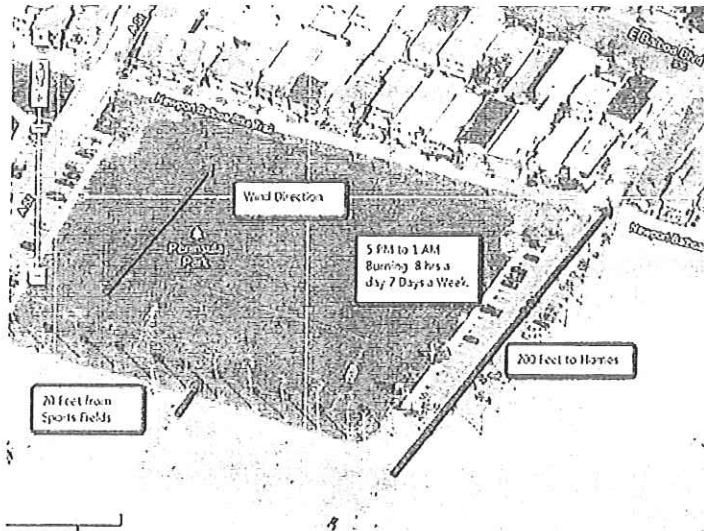
From: Randy McPhillips [mailto:loanmanagement@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 02, 2011 9:59 AM
To: Gardner, Nancy; Detweiler, Laura
Subject: We Support The Ban

http://articles.dailypilot.com/2011-10-01/news/tn-dpt-1002-cdmtoday-20111001_1_fire-rings-pro-tem-nancy-gardner-ban-on-single-use-plastic

Do the *right* thing not the *popular* thing. These hazardous waste pits have had their day.

Just the health hazards alone are reason enough to remove them.

Smoking on airplanes used to be permitted too!!!



Dr. Jack B. Larson
3024 Brenkers Drive
Corona del Mar, CA 92625

Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission
City Of Newport Beach
3300 Newport Blvd.
Newport Beach, CA 92663

JAN 19 REC'D

January 17, 2012

RE: Fire Rings at Big Corona Beach

Dear Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

This letter is to express my support for the removal of the fire rings at Big Corona Beach. The rings should be removed as they are a potential hazard to beach-goers and a significant liability to the city without adding to the quality of life to residents or visitors.

In fact the smoke and embers from the fire rings at Big Corona create toxic smoke polluting the air for both people and wildlife in the area. It seems beyond comprehension that the State of California requires automobile smog checks and discourages smoking cigarettes in part due to second hand smoke but allows the amount of smoke that emanates from the beach fire rings to go unabated. The toxic ash from the rings spreads to and into nearby homes, including my residence on Brenkers Drive, and ends up in the ocean after rain storms turning the ocean into the city's ash-tray. Additionally, the fire rings pose risks for injury and burns to small children that may be at the beach which would be a tragedy and a significant liability to the city.

Due to these significant problems I am urging the Parks Beaches and Recreation Commission to remove the fire rings from Big Corona Beach to benefit the residents, visitors and our environment.

Regards,



Dr. Jack B. Larson

-----Original Message-----

From: shechiri@aol.com [mailto:shechiri@aol.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2012 7:59 PM

To: Recreation

Subject: Beach Fire Ring Issues - Comments

Dear Representative,

I am unable to attend the meeting on February 7, 2012, and would like to provide a few comments regarding the beach fire rings at Big Corona Beach. I'm very pleased that the city is having a discussion on this subject.

I have lived in Corona del Mar for more than 20 years and enjoy spending time at the beach. I live on Heliotrope in the 300 block, which is about two blocks from the beach. I walk on the beach almost every day for exercise and to enjoy this beautiful gift to us. However,

I cannot walk on the beach at night or when people are burning fires in the fire rings. I believe the air near the half of the beach where the fire rings are located is dangerously toxic. It makes me cough, irritates my sinuses and makes my clothes stick. I suggest an air quality study be conducted to determine the pollution level of the smoke from the fire rings. I think the high toxins from the fire pits are very unhealthy and take away from the healthy environment of the beach and our lovely Corona del Mar.

My vote would be to remove the fire rings immediately to make the beach a healthy place for everyone to enjoy!

Thank you,

Sheila Chiri
949-673-3916
shechiri@aol.com

From: Barbara Peters [mailto:barbaraannpeters@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 8:41 AM
To: Nancy Gardner; Henn, Michael; Rosansky, Steven; Hill, Rush; Leslie Daigle; Curry, Keith; Dept - City Council
Cc: Detweiler, Laura; Kiff, Dave
Subject: Fire Rings at Big Corona

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

My neighbor sent the following email to me and asked that I forward it. Please consider his comments in any discussions about the Fire Rings at Big Corona.

Thank you,

Barbara Peters

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <EricWelton@aol.com>
Date: Tue, Jan 24, 2012 at 2:26 PM
Subject: (no subject)
To: barbaraAnnPeters@gmail.com

Dear Barbara

I live a few hundred yards north of Big Corona and for over thirty five years I have been subjected to the noxious emanations that come from the smoke that is generated in the after dark beach fires.

The smoke is not seen due to darkness but the effects linger on thereby prolonging the exposure inside our homes to toxic contaminants.

Many of these fires use flammable materials that come from nearby construction

sites or are dragged from the vehicles of party goers.

Based on my personal observations, those materials include -but are not limited to;

- painted wood
- wooden pallets with chemical residue
- asphalt shingles
- railroad ties that are coated with black tar
- scrap wood full of nails
- green tree wood cuttings
- plastic that is attached to wood cuttings
- rubber " " " " "
- BBQ coal residue that is saturated with starter fluid
- Wood/metal patio furniture parts purloined from neighbors
- plastic bottles
- trash from ugly dumpsters-(now more conveniently placed nearby)

It is regrettable that previous city staff and elected officials have been conveniently indecisive about addressing this health hazard.

Hopefully, current staff and council persons that are in a position to address the residents needs, (as opposed to those of evening beach visitors-most of whom live out of town) will be able to take a more courageous position this time around.

It is noteworthy, as observed by someone who walks the beach daily, that the painting of walls, signs, steps, etc with fresh graffiti in the area coincides with the fire ring activity.

Some of us who suffer from breathing impairments might feel they have a cause of action for litigation against the City now that they have again been given notice about this dangerous condition.

Feel free to forward the above to anyone of your choice.

--

Barbara A. Peters
barbaraAnnPeters@gmail.com
(949) 230-7409 cell

From: Charles Farrell [mailto:CFarrell@65retire.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 4:39 PM

To: Recreation

Subject: Fire Pits Removal

As a resident of the Newport Beach, I strongly support the removal of all fire pits on our ocean beaches for the following reasons:

Impact on our health, air quality, crime, noise, and expense to taxpayers

Charles F. Farrell

President



Branch Office
23 Corporate Plaza Dr Ste 150
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Corporate Headquarters
9870 Research Drive
Irvine, CA 92618

p 1-888-657-3847

p 1-888-65-RETIRE

f 1-888-369-3647

c 949-887-3187

cfarrell@65retire.com

www.65retire.com

From: Jack Meyers [mailto:jmeyers@me.com]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:33 AM

To: Recreation

Subject: Beach Fire Rings

I have live at 3012 Ocean Blvd., just above the Big Corona Beach, for 10 years and find the beach fire rings to be detrimental to both our home and health. When fires are burning on the beach we constantly have smoke and black ash coming into our home and covering the exterior of our property. We now avoid going out and sitting on our patio do to the unpleasant smoke. We do not open our windows any longer so that we are not subjected to the pollutants in the air coming from the beach fire rings.

I would clearly support the banning of all fires on the beach which would benefit the health and safety of the residents and those on the beach. It's frustrating to not be able to use your home and enjoy sitting outside due to the problems created by the smoke and pollutions.

Sincerely,

Jack L Meyers
3012 Ocean Blvd.
Corona del Mar, CA

From: Johnolwang@aol.com [mailto:Johnolwang@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:42 PM
To: Recreation
Subject: fire rings

I have lived on the peninsula since 1974 and every year the pollution from those rings gets worse. The onshore winds spew carcinogenic smoke across the whole peninsula. I do not want to take a good time away from anyone but lets face it, we live in a dense populated area down hear and it is just not healthy for anyone to breathe this pollution. I do not think taking away the fire rings is going to break city hall revenues, let alone the cost of EMT to be on burn patrol. You people in city hall need to stop the pollution or pitch a tent down hear and see for yourselves.

From: Michael Hirschberg [mailto:mhirschb@uci.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Recreation
Subject: save the beach fire rings

As a Newport Beach native and UCIrvine student, save the fire rings!
It is one of the best attractions Orange County has to offer students and people alike.
Many nights I have gone bbqing, guitaring, and chilling by these rings.
If you get rid of these, what will kids and students do at night?
It may help prevent the use of drugs and other bad things. Save the pits!!!
A concerned resident,
Michael

From: Bob Cuyler [mailto:rfcuylerdds@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:59 AM
To: Recreation
Subject: Pits

The pits should stay...one of the few traditions left. Why be so PC?
Sent from my iPad

From: McCarthy, Liam [mailto:liam.mccarthy@hiu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:38 AM
To: Recreation
Subject: Beach Fire Pits

I am writing this letter in response to a campaign started by Council-women Nancy Gardner to remove city owned fire pits. I do not wish the fire pits to be removed because any potential "danger" the pits create is far less than that of even driving a car. There are greater safety issues I am sure the city could better spend its resources worrying about than the fire pits enjoyed by people all across California.

Thank you for your time,

Liam McCarthy

From: Jamie Dow [mailto:jamiedow@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:10 PM
To: Recreation
Subject: Let the fire pits stay

As a lifetime Newport Beach resident, who grew up on the peninsula and whose family still owns property there, I would like to request that the fire pits be allowed to remain on the beach. They are not dangerous (they're surrounded by two of the least flammable materials in the world, concrete and sand), they add to the character of the beach, and they are not expensive to maintain. Further, another of the reasons given for removing them, that they lead to beach curfew violations, does not make much sense - if the authorities are so concerned about beach curfew violations, wouldn't you rather have centralized and very visible violations than violations which are spread out in the dark along the whole beach?

This city has been moving more towards an insular attitude catering solely to longtime residents and seemingly being hostile towards outsiders or tourists. And yet we, as a beach community, have much to gain from a tourist-friendly attitude. To close down these fire pits would just be another move towards this anti-everyone-else attitude that our city has been showing recently, which is folly. Our economy benefits from outside money, and my family gains significant income from renting our property on the peninsula. Acting to remove the fun from our city is not going to benefit us, and will not benefit the many others who rent, or local business owners who survive on tourism.

In short, removing the fire pits does not make sense in any way. Do not move forward with this plan. Thank you.

-Jamie Dow
Newport Beach resident of 30 years

From: David Gordon [mailto:gordon.david.01.dg@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:27 PM
To: Recreation
Subject: fire pits

I really enjoy the fire pits. Taking them out would be very disappointing to the community I love.

From: Alex Uzdavines [mailto:auzdavin@uci.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:41 PM
To: Gardner, Nancy; Curry, Keith; Selich, Edward; Daigle, Leslie; Hill, Rush; Rosansky, Steven; Henn, Michael
Cc: Recreation
Subject: Don't Close the Fire Rings

Hello,

As a UC Irvine student and employee I have enjoyed the firepits at Newport Beach beaches for years with a number of different student groups.

Please do not close them. I believe you would be doing a disservice to both the residents of Newport Beach who use these pits and the many, many visitors that come to these beaches expressly for evening gatherings around a fire.

Best,

Alex Uzdavines
M.A Student, Demographic and Social Analysis
B.A Psychology and Social Behavior
University of California, Irvine

From: Lynn Fetter [mailto:lynnfetter@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:11 PM
To: Recreation
Subject: Fire rings

Too much smoke too early in the day. Keep the rings, but put a time when they can fire them up.. 4pm at the earliest.

Lynn Fetter
Sent from my iPad

From: Randy McPhillips [mailto:loanmanagement@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:12 AM
To: Detweiler, Laura; 'Gardner, Nancy'
Subject: RE: We Support The Ban

Although we no longer live downwind from these toxic pollution machines we still support the ban. We just moved to Laguna Beach.

We spent two years on the Oceanfront near the Balboa Pier closing windows at night because we couldn't handle the smoke.

Cars racing in and out of the B Street lot well after midnight, loud music, trash thrown all over the beach and lot all eventually ending up in the Ocean. I have personally spent hours walking on the beach and picking up Beer cans, plastic bags pizza boxes and ...well you get the idea.

I have also placed dozens of complaint calls to NBPD late at night because I was unable to sleep. Check the Police logs.

This area is also the HQ for Junior Guards. These children play and run all over the very same area that God knows what is getting burned at night.

Take a stroll along any beach in Laguna that does not permit fires. THERE IS NO COMPARISON.

Newport Beach looks like a garbage dump compared to Laguna Beach.

The negative impression made on Tourists well exceeds the benefits of the very few who actually use them.

These pits are the party grounds for local High School and College aged kids not Tourists staying in local Hotels.

Don't kid yourself.

Save the City a fortune and clean up the environment at the same time.

From: Carbone, Linsey [mailto:lcabone@tarbut.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:29 AM
To: Recreation
Subject: Fire Rings

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Newport Beach resident, I take great pride in our ability to use our beaches – and the fire rings are a huge part of that! Please keep them! Even if they incur additional cost, they more than make up for it with quality of life.

Thank you,

Linsey Carbone
Director of Marketing & Communications
949-509-9500 ext. 3224
www.tarbut.com



Love Learning. Live Values. Discover Heritage.

From: SBuck89214@aol.com [mailto:SBuck89214@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:49 AM
To: Recreation
Subject: Fire Rings

The fire rings are a source of much enjoyment to families and have been for years.

Nothing in life comes without a safety concern.

Perhaps we should ban anyone from going into the water, that would eliminate the thousands of water related incidents and deaths.

Do not let a few bad apples ruin a great pleasure.

I find it hard to believe that the smoke from the rings has that big an impact period.

Steven Buck

From: Bob Portale [mailto:BOBPORTALE@YAHOO.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:09 AM
To: Recreation
Subject: FIRE RINGS

A CORONA DEL MAR TRADITION!!!!!! KEEP THE RINGS AT ALL COSTS!!!.....BOB

From: Dynamix10@aol.com [mailto:Dynamix10@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:13 PM
To: Recreation
Subject: Fire ring solutions

Have people pull a permit Monday - Sunday and pay for their use to cover maintenance - 50.00 . Pay an overpaid lifeguard supervisor to put out fires at night.

Teresa Schmidt, Systems Consultant
Audio Dynamix 1-800-305-8441
2770 S. Harbor Ste D
Santa Ana, CA 92704
Fax: 714-549-0822 or 1-888-302-8441
www.audiodynamix.com

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO ITEM 6B FIRE RINGS
RECEIVED AS OF 2/6/12

From: Barbara Peters [mailto:barbaraannpeters@gmail.com]

Subject: Remove the Fire Rings at Blg Corona

Dear Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

Between Christmas and New Years day, I went to the funeral of my Breakers Drive Neighbor, who sadly died too soon from lung cancer. On January 5, 2012, I returned home with my family to Breakers Drive at about 8pm and we saw HUGE bonfires at the fire rings at Big Corona. The air was filled with thick black smoke as SUV after SUV arrived to throw more Christmas trees onto the bonfires.

We see bonfires like this at the fire rings throughout the year. I've seen people burn entire bureaus, covered with paint or lacquered chemicals, and various forms of plastic trash. But even when they are burning clean wood, they are filling our air with toxic chemicals that are known to cause cancer. Please take a look at this link, www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general_faq.pdf, to learn why the AQMD has banned new indoor or outdoor wood burning devices, effective in our area as of November 2011.

The EPA tells us:

Wood smoke is 12 times more carcinogenic than equal amounts of tobacco smoke and attacks our body cells up to 40 times longer than tobacco smoke.

We don't let people smoke a cigarette on the beach for health and safety reasons. How can we continue to allow the fire rings that generate enormous quantities of wood smoke, known to be far more dangerous to our health?

My husband's mother also died during the holidays of respiratory distress. She suffered asthma attacks when she visited our home. Did you know that the tiny particles of wood smoke are so small that windows and doors cannot keep it out?

"Inhaling wood smoke particulate matter increases the incidence, duration and severity of respiratory disease, striking hardest at children, the elderly and those with lung or heart disorders. The EPA warns that there is no safe level of these carcinogens".

(www.burningissues.org, endorsed by the National Safety Council)

There was something painfully wrong to say goodbye at Christmas to a loved relative and a good neighbor, both of whom died from lung disease, and then to see people burning Christmas trees filling the air we all must breathe with carcinogenic smoke particles. The experts at the American Lung Association, the EPA, the SCAQMD, and many agencies around the world all agree: WE SHOULD ALL AVOID BREATHING BURNING WOOD! And they mean all year long, not just at Christmas.

Please, do everything in your power to remove the fire rings from Big Corona. Thank you.

--

Barbara A. Peters
barbaraAnnPeters@gmail.com
(949) 230-7409 cell

Hello,

As a long time resident of Corona del Mar, I strongly urge you to remove the beach Fire pits. I understand that historically they have provided family fun and barbeques. However, now, they attract gangs, crime, drugs and most importantly are a health hazard to local and non-local residents. In addition, the maintenance and cleaning is costly according to the maintenance people we have talked to over the years. They have also claimed that the particles used in the fire making and nails, injuries, etc is atrocious. The smoke in the air lingers daily and leaves soot and ash on homes, parks and cars. In addition, the air quality is affected. Please consider these items in your review.

thank you very much,

Tom and Jill Schriber

From: Deborah Jeffs <djeffs@progressivebenefitmgrs.com>

Date: Thu, Jan 26, 2012 at 5:57 PM

Subject: Big Corona Fire Rings

To: cocoh1@roadrunner.com, NPBTom@yahoo.com, JMMarston@roadrunner.com, ronwcolenb@gmail.com, boxing77@aol.com, phillip.lugar@sce.com, jack@beachsports.org

Dear Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission of Newport Beach,

My name is Deborah Jeffs, and I live at 417 Dahlia in Corona del Mar. I'm writing to you to add my voice to the residents who would like to see the Big Corona Fire Rings removed from our community to protect the health and safety of those who live here.

As a professional in the health care insurance industry, I pay careful attention to health risks, such as the effects of breathing wood smoke. For my own sake, I don't want to breathe in the chemicals in smoke; and I'm also concerned with the costs to our health care system and the potential for diseases that studies show are connected to breathing the particles of wood smoke.

Many agencies have determined that wood smoke is highly injurious to our health. According to the American Lung Association, "a growing number of published studies are associating wood smoke with asthma, other lung problems, and heart disease" (*A Burning Issue: Scientists Take a Hard Look at Wood-Stove Emissions, May 14, 2010*) They say that burning wood forms thousands of chemicals, including toxic and carcinogenic substances. The EPA tells us that there is no safe level of these carcinogens. The air quality specialists at the SQAMD have said that even limited exposure to smoke can be harmful to human health and they adopted Rule 445 to reduce wood burning. The experts seem to agree, wood smoke is as bad, or worse, than second-hand tobacco smoke.

It only makes sense that cigarette smoking be banned in areas where others are forced to breathe second-hand smoke. Yet, those who live in our community are forced to breathe the toxic wood smoke. We can't escape it even if we close our windows. Corona del Mar is a residential neighborhood, and it should not be the location for bonfires where people freely burn all sorts of noxious trash and plastics, even beyond the health risks of burning wood.

Newport Beach can make a decision to promote wellness and to protect its residents from the harmful health effects of smoke, soot, and ash that are directly created by the use of the fire rings at the beach. There is plenty of evidence to support your decision to remove these dangerous fire rings as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Deborah L. Jeffs
PROGRESSIVE BENEFIT MANAGERS
3419 Via Lido, #306
Newport Beach, CA 92663
(949) 723-1411
Fax (949) 723-1429
DJeffs@progressivebenefitmgrs.com

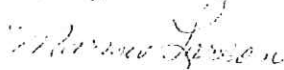
Attention:
City of Newport Beach
Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission

This letter is to urge you to remove the fire rings at Blg Corona Beach. They are a fire hazard for those of us who live on Breakers Drive and nearby. On several occasions we have had burning embers blow onto the deck of our home. Smoke blowing into our home has set off our smoke alarms.

There is dry brush and native plants by Ocean Boulevard and the driving access ramp. Beach goers throw papers cups, wrappers, and trash and other flammables in our yards and the plant areas.

We and some of our neighbors do not leave our homes on July 4th and other days when the fire ring use is heavy for fear of our homes catching fire. The fire rings are a fire hazard. The situation is a problem waiting to happen.

Sincerely,



Marena Larson
Breakers Drive Resident



Daniel J. Leonard
3124 Breakers Drive
Corona del Mar, Ca. 92625

January 26, 2012

Mr. Tom Anderson
Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission
City of Newport Beach
3300 Newport Blvd.
Newport Beach, Ca. 92663

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Breakers Drive Homeowners Association (BDHA) and all its members who reside on both Breakers Drive and on Ocean Blvd. The residents urge you to remove the fire rings from Corona del Mar State Park beach. Many residents have communicated with you and I include copies for your review. Some of the reasons the BDHA requests removal of the fire rings are:

- A number of residents and family members contracted breathing disorders and lung diseases, some being fatal.
- The fire rings can and have caused burn injuries to children.
- The fire rings attract individuals who are involved in gang activities and their sole purpose is to cause trouble including fights requiring police response.
- The BDHA residents suffer from dirty air, excessive ash, and soot and burn residue from the fires on the beach. This is often exacerbated by breezes off the ocean.

The many letters attached address the health aspects of wood burning. It is just plain UNHEALTHY. Now is the time to clean our air, not only for local residents but also for all people enjoying the beaches.

Please remove the fire rings.

Daniel J. Leonard
President
cdm fire rings issue

To Whom It Concerns:

On behalf of my household on Breakers Drive, the "frontline", I would like to express my concerns for the fire rings on Big Corona State Beach. My family has lived on this street for the last 3 to 4 decades and for me it has been the last six years. There are two major issues with having the fire rings here.

First are the health problems they can cause. I am sure there is plenty evidence that wood smoke can create health concerns. It is clear how serious the smoke is when you awake the next morning and there is ash on your car along with the sand. Also having the front sliding glass doors open during warmer seasons create this same problem, but for our furniture. For instance my mother has to wipe down our counters and leather seating in the living room and kitchen from the ash. It is very clear that wherever the sand is blown, ash is blown as well in the same fashion. The point here is that we can prevent the continuation of the ash layer from entering our homes and our lungs. I am sure that if it is coating our cars, windows, and interior of our homes then it is certainly finding refuge in our respiratory system. This is year around and obviously increased dramatically in summer months.

Secondly, the public safety is at risk. Our city and beaches attract thousands of visitors from all over Southern California and beyond. These fire rings allow an extension on their stay. Unlike normal beaches, having fire rings allow these visitors to stay into the dark hours. I cannot say crime is increased, but it makes it easier when there is darkness to commit such acts. The correlation is that if we did not have fire rings, people would be far less likely to stay around the beach after sunset and therefore there is less possibility of crime.

My goal here is to point out that unlike state parks and beaches, residents surround Big Corona. This means the fire rings have a direct impact on the daily lives of residents on Breakers Drive, Ocean Boulevard, and neighboring streets. Putting fire rings in state owned areas tend to have open land and no permanent guests, which makes the smoke concern of little importance. I would stress to all government entities involved in this discussion to understand and support the views of the local residents that live with the decision every day of the year.

Sincerely,

Justin Edson
3030 Breakers Drive
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
949-375-1862

From: Charlotte Stephens <rostkop@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 30, 2012 at 9:55 AM
Subject: Big Corona Fire Rings
To: cocoh1@roadrunner.com, NPBTom@yahoo.com, JMMarston@roadrunner.com,
ronwcolenb@gmail.com, boxing77@aol.com, phillip.lugar@sce.com,
jack@beachsports.org

Dear Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

My name is Charlotte Stephens and I am the owner of 3014 Breakers Drive, Corona del Mar, Ca. My property is very close to the fire rings at Big Corona. I would like to see the fire rings removed.

My granddaughter suffers from asthma. She is now a young mother herself, but when she was growing up, she would visit me often. We couldn't even enjoy a summer evening, as we would have to close all the doors and windows to try to keep the smoke out. Visiting her grandmother brought on painful asthma attacks, directly because of the smoke from the fire rings. Now, I know that closing the doors and windows was of no use because the particles of wood smoke are so tiny that they came through anyway.

Waking up in the morning was hardest of all. As you may know, we often have a marine layer near the beach. The marine layer seemed to trap the smoke and smells of the fire rings and my next door neighbors said it would set off their smoke alarms. The smell in the morning, as we opened our deck doors, was horrible. The marine layer dampens the ashes, but the stench is horrible with all the soot and ash of things they shouldn't burn. We would see ash and soot on our decks, furniture, and roof. It would linger in our home and make us feel sick.

So many experts and scientists around the world have provided proof that wood smoke increases the problems with asthma and lung disease and many other health problems, especially with children and elderly people. The EPA, the American Lung Association, and the AQMD all say breathing these carcinogenic particles is very bad for us. I know this is true, because my granddaughter suffered so much whenever she visited me. My granddaughter now has a child of her own, and I hope that you will remove these deadly fire rings so that my granddaughter will be able to come to my home without fear of being unable to breath, or fear for the health of her child.

Thank you.

Charlotte Stephens

Tod and Peggie Parrott
3130 Breakers Drive
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
949-673-2876
Peggieparrott@gmail.com

November 2, 2011

Newport Beach City Council
Nancy Gardner, district six
Mark Harmon, dir. of Municipal Operations
3300 Newport Blvd.
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my husband and my concern regarding the fire rings at the Corona del Mar State beach. As I grew up on Breakers Dr., I have seen many changes since 1953. Years ago the fire rings were populated by families roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. Today I see a minimal use by families and a surge of young adults trying to leap over the roaring bonfires as a passage of manhood. The lawyers are already out to represent and benefit from the unfortunate ones as we see in Huntington Beach.

Please consider removing these for the safety of our community.

We really appreciate your addressing this issue at this time.

Warm regards,

Peggie Parrott

Dear Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

Between Christmas and New Years day I went to the funeral of my Breakers Drive neighbor who sadly died too soon from lung cancer. On January 5, 2012, I returned home with my family to Breakers Drive at about 8pm and we saw HUGE bonfires at the fire rings at Big Corona. The air was filled with thick, black smoke as SUV after SUV arrived to throw more Christmas trees onto the bonfires.

We see bonfires like this at the fire rings throughout the year. I've seen people burn entire bureaus, covered with paint or lacquered chemicals, and various forms of plastic trash. But even when they are burning clean wood, they are filling our air with toxic chemicals that are known to cause cancer. Please take a look at this link, www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general_faq.pdf, to learn why the AQMD has banned new indoor or outdoor wood burning devices, effective in our area as of November 2011.

The EPA tells us:

Wood smoke is 12 times more carcinogenic than equal amounts of tobacco smoke and attacks our body cells up to 40 times longer than tobacco smoke.

We don't let people smoke a cigarette on the beach for health and safety reasons. How can we continue to allow the fire rings that generate enormous quantities of wood smoke, known to be far more dangerous to our health?

My husband's mother also died during the holidays of respiratory distress. She suffered asthma attacks when she visited our home. Did you know that the tiny particles of wood smoke are so small that windows and doors cannot keep it out?

"Inhaling wood smoke particulate matter increases the incidence, duration and severity of respiratory disease, striking hardest at children, the elderly and those with lung or heart disorders. The EPA warns that there is no safe level of these carcinogens". (www.burningissues.org, endorsed by the National Safety Council)

There was something painfully wrong to say goodbye at Christmas to a loved relative and a good neighbor, both of whom died from lung disease, and then to see people burning Christmas trees filling the air we all must breathe with carcinogenic smoke particles. The experts at the American Lung Association, the EPA, the SCAQMD, and many agencies around the world all agree: WE SHOULD ALL AVOID BREATHING BURNING WOOD! And they mean all year long, not just at Christmas.

Please, do everything in your power to remove the fire rings from Big Corona. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED RELATED TO ITEM 6B FIRE RINGS
RECEIVED AFTER 2/8 EMAIL

From: Mary Roosevelt [mailto:maroos@att.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 10:20 AM
To: Recreation; info@cdmra.org
Subject: Fire Ring Comments

I do not live on Ocean Blvd, so I am not directly affected by the fire rings. I have enjoyed using them, and I think that they do contribute to the attraction of our beaches. Recent rules have stopped folks from using barbecues, and this is a great improvement. I would like to keep the fire rings, but I do sympathize with those impacted by their use.
Mary Roosevelt

From: Doug Pasquale [mailto:dougpasquale@capstone-corp.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 4:46 PM
To: Recreation
Cc: Recreation
Subject: FW: Fire rings

While I was unable to attend the Parks, Beaches & Recreations meeting last evening this is a topic in which I have great interest. My family has lived on Balboa Peninsula for about three years and the smoke is not only extremely unhealthy, and I know there is strong evidence to support the health implications, but it also negatively impacts the quality of life for the local residents, others taking advantage of our lovely beaches, enjoying the pier, and supporting our city by using local restaurants and shops. It is not difficult to appreciate that people enjoy building fires on the beach. However, these people's exposure to the harmful smoke is limited and they can position themselves around the fire such that they avert the harmful and foul smelling smoke. Others living and visiting the area can't extricate themselves from the smoke.

Although individuals in favor of the fire rings likely invoke the fun and memories of their experience to support keeping the fire rings, so might others recall the joy of riding a bike without a helmet or shooting dangerous explosive fireworks on the 4th of July. Others like to smoke cigarettes and cigars and would be indifferent to the harmful effects of second hand smoke if there weren't laws that protected those who would otherwise be unappreciative recipients of others' harmful actions. As societies gain wisdom, certain customs and activities have to change in tandem with increased knowledge.

Aside from the political pressure from what I wouldn't be surprised is a vocal minority, removing the fire rings should be an easy decision. We pay you and elect our leaders to make the right decisions. It is time to eliminate the fire rings.

From: bjjohnson55337@juno.com [mailto:bjjohnson55337@juno.com]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 10:35 AM
To: PB&R Commission
Subject: Fire Rings at Beaches

I read with interest an article posted February 5, 2012 entitled, "Fire Rings Stir Passion, Divide Community," sent to me by a friend. I recently visited Manhattan Beach in Los Angeles and feel I must respond to the article.

After the sun set, we walked into a lovely restaurant called "Mama D's" and had a wonderful dinner. But, when we exited the restaurant we were surprised by all the smoke in the area. We wanted to walk around the lovely town and sight see, but we just couldn't tolerate the smoke and so cut our visit short. I don't know if there are fire rings on the beach there, but there were, I noted, many homes with chimneys. I really don't know where the smoke was coming from, but I am very aware of the dangers of wood smoke and I am concerned about how it is the "unrecognized and unacknowledged" pollutant in our communities - including mine. One person in the article actually said that the fire rings attract tourists. This tourist would like to stand on the beach and enjoy the fresh sea air - something we don't get in Minnesota. Knowing how dangerous wood smoke is to humans and animals alike, and to our environment, this tourist chose to leave the area. We didn't linger to have a drink in one of the outdoor bars or an ice cream for dessert. This tourist didn't spend any more money and this tourist will warn her friends about the area.

I hope, ultimately, your decision will prohibit these rings on beaches and that homeowners will be encouraged to change-out their wood burning fireplaces to gas. When air pollution is reduced, lives are saved.

Good luck at your upcoming meeting!

Feel free to use my email at your meeting, if you think it will add to the discourse.

Barbara Johnson
Burnsville, MN

THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE WAS RECEIVED BY FED EX ON 2/14/12
RELATED TO ITEM 6B FIRE RINGS

Daniel J. Leonard
3124 Breakers Drive
Corona del Mar, Ca. 92625

January 26, 2012

Mr. Jack Tingley
Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission
City of Newport Beach
3300 Newport Blvd.
Newport Beach, Ca. 92663

Dear Mr. Tingley:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Breakers Drive Homcowners Association (BDHA) and all its members who reside on both Breakers Drive and on Ocean Blvd. The residents urge you to remove the fire rings from Corona del Mar State Park beach. Many residents have communicated with you and I include copies for your review. Some of the reasons the BDHA requests removal of the fire rings are:

- A number of residents and family members contracted breathing disorders and lung diseases, some being fatal.
- The fire rings can and have caused burn injuries to children.
- The fire rings attract individuals who are involved in gang activities and their sole purpose is to cause trouble including fights requiring police response.
- The BDHA residents suffer from dirty air, excessive ash, and soot and burn residue from the fires on the beach. This is often exacerbated by breezes off the ocean.

The many letters attached address the health aspects of wood burning. It is just plain UNHEALTHY. Now is the time to clean our air, not only for local residents but also for all people enjoying the beaches.

Please remove the fire rings.



Daniel J. Leonard
President
edm fire rings issue

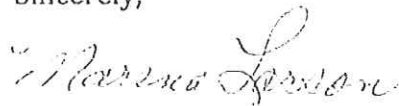
Attention:
City of Newport Beach
Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission

This letter is to urge you to remove the fire rings at Big Corona Beach. They are a fire hazard for those of us who live on Breakers Drive and nearby. On several occasions we have had burning embers blow onto the deck of our home. Smoke blowing into our home has set off our smoke alarms.

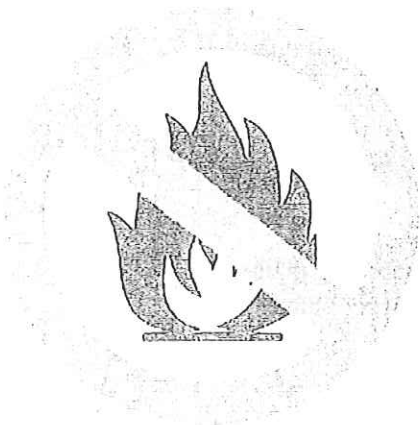
There is dry brush and native plants by Ocean Boulevard and the driving access ramp. Beach goers throw papers cups, wrappers, and trash and other flammables in our yards and the plant areas.

We and some of our neighbors do not leave our homes on July 4th and other days when the fire ring use is heavy for fear of our homes catching fire. The fire rings are a fire hazard. The situation is a problem waiting to happen.

Sincerely,



Marena Larson
Breakers Drive Resident



Dear Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

Between Christmas and New Years day I went to the funeral of my Breakers Drive neighbor who sadly died too soon from lung cancer. On January 5, 2012, I returned home with my family to Breakers Drive at about 8pm and we saw HUGE bonfires at the fire rings at Big Corona. The air was filled with thick, black smoke as SUV after SUV arrived to throw more Christmas trees onto the bonfires.

We see bonfires like this at the fire rings throughout the year. I've seen people burn entire bureaus, covered with paint or lacquered chemicals, and various forms of plastic trash. But even when they are burning clean wood, they are filling our air with toxic chemicals that are known to cause cancer. Please take a look at this link, www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general_faq.pdf, to learn why the AQMD has banned new indoor or outdoor wood burning devices, effective in our area as of November 2011.

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We don't let people smoke a cigarette on the beach for health and safety reasons. How can we continue to allow the fire rings that generate enormous quantities of wood smoke, known to be far more dangerous to our health?

My husband's mother also died during the holidays of respiratory distress. She suffered asthma attacks when she visited our home. Did you know that the tiny particles of wood smoke are so small that windows and doors cannot keep it out?

"Inhaling wood smoke particulate matter increases the incidence, duration and severity of respiratory disease, striking hardest at children, the elderly and those with lung or heart disorders. The EPA warns that there is no safe level of these carcinogens". (www.burningissues.org, endorsed by the National Safety Council)

There was something painfully wrong to say goodbye at Christmas to a loved relative and a good neighbor, both of whom died from lung disease, and then to see people burning Christmas trees filling the air we all must breathe with carcinogenic smoke particles. The experts at the American Lung Association, the EPA, the SCAQMD, and many agencies around the world all agree: WE SHOULD ALL AVOID BREATHING BURNING WOOD! And they mean all year long, not just at Christmas.

Please, do everything in your power to remove the fire rings from Big Corona. Thank you.

Dear Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

My name is Charlotte Stephens and I am the owner of 3014 Breakers Drive, Corona del Mar, Ca. My property is very close to the fire rings at Big Corona. I would like to see the fire rings removed.

My granddaughter suffers from asthma. She is now a young mother herself, but when she was growing up, she would visit me often. We couldn't even enjoy a summer evening, as we would have to close all the doors and windows to try to keep the smoke out. Visiting her grandmother brought on painful asthma attacks, directly because of the smoke from the fire rings. Now, I know that closing the doors and windows was of no use because the particles of wood smoke are so tiny that they came through anyway.

Waking up in the morning was hardest of all. As you may know, we often have a marine layer near the beach. The marine layer seemed to trap the smoke and smells of the fire rings and my next door neighbors said it would set off their smoke alarms. The smell in the morning, as we opened our deck doors, was horrible. The marine layer dampens the ashes, but the stench is horrible with all the soot and ash of things they shouldn't burn. We would see ash and soot on our decks, furniture, and roof. It would linger in our home and make us feel sick.

So many experts and scientists around the world have provided proof that wood smoke increases the problems with asthma and lung disease and many other health problems, especially with children and elderly people. The EPA, the American Lung Association, and the AQMD all say breathing these carcinogenic particles is very bad for us. I know this is true, because my granddaughter suffered so much whenever she visited me. My granddaughter now has a child of her own, and I hope that you will remove these deadly fire rings so that my granddaughter will be able to come to my home without fear of being unable to breath, or fear for the health of her child.

Thank you.

Charlotte Stephens

Dr. Jack B. Larson
3024 Breakers Drive
Corona del Mar, CA 92625

Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission
City Of Newport Beach
3300 Newport Blvd.
Newport Beach, CA 92663

January 17, 2012

RE: Fire Rings at Big Corona Beach

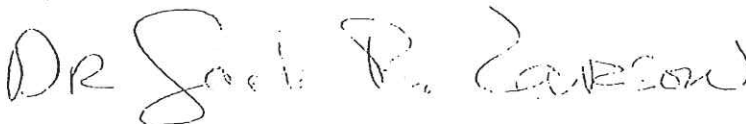
Dear Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

This letter is to express my support for the removal of the fire rings at Big Corona Beach. The rings should be removed as they are a potential hazard to beach-goers and a significant liability to the city without adding to the quality of life to residents or visitors.

In fact the smoke and embers from the fire rings at Big Corona create toxic smoke polluting the air for both people and wildlife in the area. It seems beyond comprehension that the State of California requires automobile smog checks and discourages smoking cigarettes in part due to second hand smoke but allows the amount of smoke that emanates from the beach fire rings to go unabated. The toxic ash from the rings spreads to and into nearby homes, including my residence on Breakers Drive, and ends up in the ocean after rain storms turning the ocean into the city's ash-tray. Additionally, the fire rings pose risks for injury and burns to small children that may be at the beach which would be a tragedy and a significant liability to the city.

Due to these significant problems I am urging the Parks Beaches and Recreation Commission to remove the fire rings from Big Corona Beach to benefit the residents, visitors and our environment.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Jack B. Larson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jack B. Larson

Tod and Peggie Parrott
3130 Breakers Drive
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
949-673-2876
Peggieparrott@gmail.com

November 2, 2011

Newport Beach City Council
Nancy Gardner, district six
Mark Harmon, dir. of Municipal Operations
3300 Newport Blvd.
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my husband and my concern regarding the fire rings at the Corona del Mar State beach. As I grew up on Breakers Dr., I have seen many changes since 1953. Years ago the fire rings were populated by families roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. Today I see a minimal use by families and a surge of young adults trying to leap over the roaring bonfires as a passage of manhood. The lawyers are already out to represent and benefit from the unfortunate ones as we see in Huntington Beach.

Please consider removing these for the safety of our community.

We really appreciate your addressing this issue at this time.

Warm regards,

Peggie Parrott

To Whom It Concerns:

On behalf of my household on Breakers Drive, the "frontline", I would like to express my concerns for the fire rings on Big Corona State Beach. My family has lived on this street for the last 3 to 4 decades and for me it has been the last six years. There are two major issues with having the fire rings here.

First are the health problems they can cause. I am sure there is plenty evidence that wood smoke can create health concerns. It is clear how serious the smoke is when you awake the next morning and there is ash on your car along with the sand. Also having the front sliding glass doors open during warmer seasons create this same problem, but for our furniture. For instance my mother has to wipe down our counters and leather seating in the living room and kitchen from the ash. It is very clear that wherever the sand is blown, ash is blown as well in the same fashion. The point here is that we can prevent the continuation of the ash layer from entering our homes and our lungs. I am sure that if it is coating our cars, windows, and interior of our homes then it is certainly finding refuge in our respiratory system. This is year around and obviously increased dramatically in summer months.

Secondly, the public safety is at risk. Our city and beaches attract thousands of visitors from all over Southern California and beyond. These fire rings allow an extension on their stay. Unlike normal beaches, having fire rings allow these visitors to stay into the dark hours. I cannot say crime is increased, but it makes it easier when there is darkness to commit such acts. The correlation is that if we did not have fire rings, people would be far less likely to stay around the beach after sunset and therefore there is less possibility of crime.

My goal here is to point out that unlike state parks and beaches, residents surround Big Corona. This means the fire rings have a direct impact on the daily lives of residents on Breakers Drive, Ocean Boulevard, and neighboring streets. Putting fire rings in state owned areas tend to have open land and no permanent guests, which makes the smoke concern of little importance. I would stress to all government entities involved in this discussion to understand and support the views of the local residents that live with the decision every day of the year.

Sincerely,

Justin Edson
3030 Breakers Drive
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
949-375-1862

THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE WAS RECEIVED:

From: Julie Mellum [<mailto:mellum.julie@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 6:03 PM
To: PB&R Commission
Cc: bjjohnson55337@juno.com
Subject: outdoor fire rings on the beaches

Dear Public Officials,

Before the smoking bans, people at least had a choice not to patronize smoking establishments. But on the beaches, in public spaces, and even on our own properties, there is increasingly no choice. It is an atrocity to allow wood burning with its profusion of wood smoke that can cause premature death in people of all ages. Children and anyone with asthma or other breathing or heart disorders are among the most vulnerable. It also violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires cities to remove all "barriers" to the access and use of public spaces. To those with breathing disorders and other disabilities, wood smoke presents an actual physical barrier. The decision to disallow outdoor burning on the beaches should be a no-brainer.

Julie Mellum
Founder, Take Back the Air
info@takebacktheair.com
www.takebacktheair.com

From: Mark D. Simon [<mailto:markdsimon@roadrunner.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 5:13 PM
To: Rosansky, Steven; Henn, Michael; Hill, Rush; Daigle, Leslie; Selich, Edward; Gardner, Nancy; Curry, Keith
Cc: Craig, Teri
Subject: Fire Pits

Dear City Council Members,

We respectfully request that you reject the recommendation of the Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission to remove the Fire Rings at Big Corona Beach. The Fire Rings have been a part of this Beach community and many Family's memories for the last 60 years. I dare say that all of the folks that voiced their opinion against the Fire Rings knew full well they were there at the Beach when they bought or leased their affected properties.

My Family has had many birthday parties at the Fire Rings. We have participated in the Boys Scouts Annual Cook Out at the Fire Rings with Troop 90 for many years and prior to that, with Cub Scout Pack 330. The Fire Rings are part of the charm of this Beach community and a resource for the entire City. They certainly should not be removed at the request of the 20 people who live closest to them, because they don't like the smoke and the people that come to use them any more.

We intend to pursue this matter with the Coastal Commission and look forward to your upcoming review of this issue.

Thank You,

Mark & Kristine Simon

V(949) 872 - 8322
2420 First Avenue
Corona del Mar, CA 92625

Brown, Leilani

From: Kiff, Dave
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Brown, Leilani
Cc: Detweiler, Laura
Subject: FW: Please Remove the Fire Rings

For the record.

From: Charlotte Stephens [mailto:rostkop@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:18 AM
To: Gardnernc@aol.com; Henn, Michael; Rosansky, Steven; Hill, Rush; lesliedaigle@aol.com; Curry, Keith; Selich, Edward;
Dept - City Council
Cc: Kiff, Dave
Subject: Please Remove the Fire Rings

Dear Mayor and City Council Members of Newport Beach,

My name is Charlotte Stephens and I am the owner of 3014 Breakers Drive, Corona del Mar, Ca. My property is very close to the fire rings at Big Corona. I would like to see the fire rings removed.

My granddaughter suffers from asthma. She is now a young mother herself, but when she was growing up, she would visit me often. We couldn't even enjoy a summer evening, as we would have to close all the doors and windows to try to keep the smoke out. Visiting her grandmother brought on painful asthma attacks, directly because of the smoke from the fire rings. Now, I know that closing the doors and windows was of no use because the particles of wood smoke are so tiny that they came through anyway.

Waking up in the morning was hardest of all. As you may know, we often have a marine layer near the beach. The marine layer seemed to trap the smoke and smells of the fire rings and my next door neighbors said it would set off their smoke alarms. The smell in the morning, as we opened our deck doors, was horrible. The marine layer dampens the ashes, but the stench is horrible with all the soot and ash of things they shouldn't burn. We would see ash and soot on our decks, furniture, and roof. It would linger in our home and make us feel sick.

So many experts and scientists around the world have provided proof that wood smoke increases the problems with asthma and lung disease and many other health problems, especially with children and elderly people. The EPA, the American Lung Association, and the AQMD all say breathing these carcinogenic particles is very bad for us. I know this is true, because my granddaughter suffered so much whenever she visited me. My granddaughter now has a child of her own, and I hope that you will remove these deadly fire rings so that my granddaughter will be able to come to my home without fear of being unable to breath, or fear for the health of her child.

Thank you.
Charlotte Stephens

--
Charlotte Stephens

Brown, Leilani

From: Kiff, Dave
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:59 AM
To: Brown, Leilani
Subject: FW: The Case Against the Fire Rings
Attachments: Fire rings Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council1.pdf

For the record.

From: Barbara Peters [<mailto:barbaraannpeters@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:52 PM
To: Gardner, Nancy
Subject: The Case Against the Fire Rings

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I wrote to you several months ago about the smoke from the fire rings at Big Corona, telling you about the burning of Christmas trees and the deaths of my neighbor from lung cancer and my mother-in-law from respiratory distress.

Because of that letter, I've been contacted by a network of groups in other states seeking to address the health risks of wood smoke.

It's amazing how many people are working to inform decision makers of the research that clearly shows that wood smoke is as serious a public health threat as tobacco smoke. It seems well known and accepted that even short term exposure to particles of wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks, acute bronchitis and heart attacks. New studies show even more.

For example, two recent studies led by UC Berkeley spotlight the human health effects of exposure to wood smoke from open fires. Dr. Kirk Smith, Professor of Global Environmental Health, puts reducing wood smoke exposure on par with vaccinations for reducing severe pneumonia. In another study published September 24, 2011 in the journal of NeuroToxicology, results found a link between exposure to wood smoke and reduced cognitive ability.[1]

In some states, like Minnesota, they have found a strong argument in property rights, saying that it is the right of any property owner to breathe clean air on the property they are taxed for. Elsewhere, such as in New York, they have argued that wood smoke is akin to trespassing with chemicals.

There is also a focus on accessibility requirements that mandate cities to remove barriers to public access to public places and events. Wood smoke is a barrier to those who suffer from respiratory disabilities as shown in the City of Mallard, Iowa, where the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was successfully employed and a US District Court judge handed down a precedent setting case by ordering a burning ban.[2]

Here, in Newport Beach and at Big Corona, we would like the beach to be for all people, not just for those who want to burn. We know so much more now than we did over half a century ago when these rings were placed here. It is time to take them out.

Thank you.

Barbara Peters

[1] <http://cleancookstoves.org/media-coverage/woodsmoke-from-cooking-fires-linked-to-pneumonia-cognitive-impacts/>

[2] <http://burningissues.org/lukebiomass.html>

Barbara A. Peters
barbaraAnnPeters@gmail.com
(949) 230-7409 cell

ATTACHMENT D